

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:LL

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

IO/HR:WHEWITT

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187106

LIMDIS: FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS FROM IO-MOREY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJ: UNESCO MEETING ON RACE AND RACISM: RE-DRAFT OF
LETTER TO M'BOW

1. AS YOU REQUESTED, WE HAVE REDRAFTED M'BOW LETTER TO TAKE
ACCOUNT OF INFORMATION IN PARA 3, PARIS 21576 (SEE FOLLOWING
PARA 4) AND TO MAKE LETTER MORE SYMPATHETIC AND ATTUNED TO
M'BOW'S SENSITIVITIES.

2. IN PARA C WE HAVE SOUGHT TO RAISE DOUBTS ABOUT THE
QUALITY OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WITHOUT FRONTALLY ADDRESSING
THIS ISSUE, EVEN THOUGH WE AGREE COMPLETELY WITH THE
CRITICISMS EXPRESSED IN UNESCO INFORMATION GROUP (IG) ABOUT
DRAFT BEING UNSCIENTIFIC AND UNPROFESSIONAL. GIVEN THE
CIRCUMSTANCES (OUR DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
EXPERTS MEETING, AND OUR PREFERENCES FOR NO DECLARATION AND
NO MEETING) WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE,
ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH M'BOW, FOR
U.S. TO CRITICIZE SECRETARIAT DRAFT MORE EXPLICITLY. THIS
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WOULD BE ESPECIALLY RISKY IF, AS WE SUSPECT, OTHER IG MEM-

BERS TAKE THE ELIPTICAL APPROACH OF SIMPLY URGING THAT MORE TIME BE PROVIDED TO PRODUCE A "MORE WORTHY" DRAFT.

3. TEXT OF REVISED LETTER FOR YOUR APPROVAL:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

A. I SHOULD LIKE TO REPLY TO YOUR CIRCULAR LETTER 2527 OF JUNE 14, 1976, IN WHICH YOU INVITED MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE (DOCUMENT SHC/MD/33).

B. I APPRECIATE BEING GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY, EVEN THOUGH MY GOVERNMENT DECIDED SOME TIME AGO NOT TO TAKE PART IN THE EXPERTS' MEETING ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD LAST JANUARY. THIS DECISION WAS TAKEN IN ACCORD WITH OUR EARLIER JUDGMENT, FOLLOWING THE ADOPTION OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3379 (XXX), THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

C. OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT DECLARATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT WE HAVE OFTEN IN THE PAST -- AND AS FAR BACK AS THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE -- EXPRESSED SERIOUS DOUBT THAT A DRAFT DECLARATION WOULD SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE. INDEED, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT IT MIGHT EVEN PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE BY DETRACTING FROM EXISTING UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS THAT, I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE, HAVE STILL NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY IMPLEMENTED. I SHOULD ADD THAT THE CONTENT OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT DECLARATION SERVES TO REINFORCE OUR RESERVATIONS.

D. CONSEQUENTLY, IN VIEW OF ALL THESE FACTORS, AND IN KEEPING WITH THE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS WE HAVE ALREADY STATED, WE WOULD REALLY MUCH PREFER THAT THE EXPERTS' MEETING ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE NOT BE HELD AT ALL.

E. WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, SAMUEL W. LEWIS END QUOTE.
DRAFTED: IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER; CLEARED: IO/HR:WHEWITT;
IO:RDMOREY.
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4. FYI: PARA 3 OF PARIS 21576: QUOTE: RE MEETING ON RACE AND RACISM. CANADA AND PORTUGAL AND OTHERS FELT SECRETARIAT DRAFT DECLARATION ON RACE AND RACIAL PREJUDICE AN INFERIOR DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD LOWER PRESTIGE OF ORGANIZATION IF ADOPTED. IT FELT THAT DEFINITIONS WERE UNSCIENTIFIC AND LANGUAGE WAS VAGUE. SOME TEN COUNTRIES INDICATED THEY HAD OR WERE IN PROCESS OF REPLYING TO DG'S LETTER OF JUNE 14 WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT MUCH MORE TIME

NEEDED TO DEVELOP DOCUMENT WORTHY OF UNESCO. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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